

Write to Learn

This strategy makes students aware that writing is a reflection of who they are and how they think at the same time that they review a topic.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Select a writing prompt that integrates thinking and content.

Lesson Plan:

1. Have students generate an initial response to the prompt, writing on every other line.
2. Have students read their responses to themselves softly aloud and make initial revisions as necessary.
3. Have students conduct a “knee to knee” conference in pairs. They exchange papers and listen to their own paper being read to them.. As they listen to their paper, they make notes of things they might want to add or clarify.
4. Students revise their initial pieces to make sure they “look good and sound smart” using these criteria:
 - Does my paper look good?
 - Is my spelling correct?
 - Did I use proper mechanics?
 - Is my paper neat?
 - Is it well organized?
 - Does my paper sound smart?
 - Did I address the purpose for writing the piece?
 - Is my writing organized around big ideas?
 - Did I support my ideas?
 - Do I have an interesting beginning and ending?

Adapted from a workshop conducted by Daniel R. Moirao at Fuquay-Varina High School, Wake County Public School System, on September 25, 2008.